Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in Uttaranchal for the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of projects
2001-02	269
2002-03	375
2003-04	1106

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, some units do close down.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the current year, 2004-05, KVIC has set a target of setting up of 500 projects under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in Uttaranchal by allocating Rs. 658 lakhs. These projects are estimated to generate 10,000 employment opportunities. For the remaining two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, i.e. 2005-06 and 2006-07 it is targeted to set up 1155 number of projects creating additional employment for 23100 number of persons.

Financial conditions of farmers

†2386. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to establish agriculture based industries to provide technical training for it as well as to provide financial assistance for the establishment of industries to farmers in order to bring improvement in the economic conditions of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are considering to formulate any plan in this regard, in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), KVIC provides financial assistance in the form of margin money for establishing varous rural industries projects including agriculture based industries. Upto 2003-04, a total of 39809 Agro and Food Processing Industry projects have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

set up and margin money spent on them is Rs. 155.32 crores. 5.41 lakhs additional employment opportunities have been generated in these projects upto 2003-04.

Under this programme, KVIC provides development training to entrepreneurs through a number of accredited training centres. Training programme in various trades are also being organised in KVICs 15 departmentally run multi-disciplinary agencies. These training centres conduct various technical courses (both theoretical and practical) for the benefit of artisans/entrepreneurs engaged in Khadi and Village Industries.

(c) Does not arise.

Revolving funds for training rural youth in Karnataka

2387. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought Central assistance for starting a revolving fund for training rural youth in job-oriented courses;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Crisis in the Coir Industry

2388. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Coir Industry is facing serious crisis;

(b) whether Government have contemplated any comprehensive plan to tide over the crisis;

(c) whether Government have taken initiative to put coir as an agricultural product in the WTO list; and

(d) if so, the details and the results of such initiatives?